

# ARIZONA



# SCORP

2008

Arizona Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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**September 2007**

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# ARIZONA

## 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

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Arizona State Parks  
September 2007

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## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

This 2008 update of Arizona’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as the State’s outdoor recreation policy plan. It is intended to guide outdoor recreation managers and decision-makers on policy and funding issues. While local, state and federal agencies have their own detailed management plans that are used to guide the development and operation of outdoor recreation facilities and management of land and water resources, the SCORP is a mechanism by which the state’s recreational resources and management issues can be viewed collectively.

The power of this plan is the power of influence. It provides decision-makers and outdoor recreation managers a thoughtful analysis of the most significant outdoor recreation issues facing Arizona today and suggests strategies to address these issues during the next five years.

#### LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND



##### Background and Legal Authority

In 1964, Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act (P.L.85-578) creating a program to assist state and local governments in acquiring, developing and expanding high quality outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Using revenues from offshore oil and gas receipts, the Act’s intent is to provide funds for the acquisition and development of public lands to meet the needs of all Americans for outdoor recreation and open space.

The Act stipulates that each state is required to complete an approved outdoor recreation plan or “SCORP” to be eligible for LWCF stateside allocations. Since its inception more than 40 years ago, the stateside portion of the Fund has provided \$3.7 billion that was matched by local participants for a total investment of \$7.4 billion, successfully conserving more than three million acres of recreation land and open space and helping to create more than 40,400 state and local park recreation facilities.

## **LWCF Funding**

To ensure an integrated approach to conservation and recreation, LWCF has two components:

- A federal program that funds the purchase of federal agency land and water areas for conservation and recreation purposes. Congress appropriates these funds directly to federal agencies on an annual basis.
- A stateside matching grants program that provides funds to states for planning, developing and acquiring land and water areas for state and local parks, recreation areas and open space, and natural resource conservation.

LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million each year. However, since its inception Congress has chosen to allocate a significant portion of the fund for purposes other than conservation and recreation. For a period of four years starting in 1996, no stateside LWCF funds were allocated. In 2000, Congress resumed funding, however in recent years, the allocations have decreased substantially and there are indications they may stop altogether unless more support for LWCF is forthcoming.

Arizona receives congressional appropriations from LWCF, administered through the Arizona State Parks Board (ASPB), for state and local government sponsored outdoor recreation projects. Arizona's stateside LWCF share is based on a formula comprised of land area and population factors.

The ASPB has the authority to establish procedures and requirements for all LWCF grant applications. These are 50:50 matching grants available to municipalities, counties, state agencies and tribal governments. Areas funded through LWCF grants must be operated and maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use. If the land use changes, the fund must either be paid back or alternate new recreation facilities must replace the lost resource.

The primary intent is to increase high quality recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors to the State of Arizona in cooperation with local political subdivisions and state agencies.

### Arizona's LWCF Allocations

Arizona has been an active participant in the LWCF program since 1965 (Table 1). Since then, more than 715 LWCF grants have been awarded in Arizona totaling \$56 million, with a leveraged amount of nearly \$120 million, making a significant contribution to investments in Arizona's outdoors (Appendix A). The highest LWCF amount received by the state was in 1979, with a grant allocation for Arizona that year that totaled \$4.8 million out of \$369 million national appropriation. Amounts in recent years have dropped to a fraction of that level.

In 2005, Arizona's stateside LWCF share was about \$1.7 million, out of a total \$88 million national appropriation. In both 2006 and 2007, Arizona's stateside share was only \$535,156, out of a total of \$27.9 million appropriated by Congress.



**Table 1. LWCF Annual Apportionments to Arizona 1965 through 2007**

<b>1965</b>	\$131,045		<b>1980</b>	\$4,859,702		<b>1995</b>	\$418,852
<b>1966</b>	\$1,052,875		<b>1981</b>	\$2,745,899		<b>1996</b>	\$0
<b>1967</b>	\$721,398		<b>1982</b>	\$0		<b>1997</b>	\$0
<b>1968</b>	\$793,178		<b>1983</b>	\$1,654,921		<b>1998</b>	\$0
<b>1969</b>	\$582,626		<b>1984</b>	\$1,090,888		<b>1999</b>	\$0
<b>1970</b>	\$801,114		<b>1985</b>	\$1,116,080		<b>2000</b>	\$696,484
<b>1971</b>	\$1,974,293		<b>1986</b>	\$700,462		<b>2001</b>	\$1,637,450
<b>1972</b>	\$3,297,150		<b>1987</b>	\$498,035		<b>2002</b>	\$2,637,236
<b>1973</b>	\$2,337,039		<b>1988</b>	\$252,511		<b>2003</b>	\$1,160,604
<b>1974</b>	\$1,710,327		<b>1989</b>	\$262,074		<b>2004</b>	\$1,755,514
<b>1975</b>	\$2,313,900		<b>1990</b>	\$245,865		<b>2005</b>	\$1,724,232
<b>1976</b>	\$2,825,529		<b>1991</b>	\$482,420		<b>2006</b>	\$535,156
<b>1977</b>	\$2,369,539		<b>1992</b>	\$306,529		<b>2007</b>	\$535,156
<b>1978</b>	\$4,026,227		<b>1993</b>	\$386,029		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,914,853</b>
<b>1979</b>	\$4,859,702		<b>1994</b>	\$416,812			

#### Local, Regional and State Parks Heritage Fund

In addition to the LWCF, Arizona's recreation lands have benefited from the Local, Regional and State Parks (LRSP) Grant Program that receives revenues from the Arizona Heritage Fund (from a percentage of state lottery revenues; A.R.S. § 41-503; § 5-522). The Arizona State Parks Board uses the LWCF grant evaluation criteria (Open Project Selection Process) and application process to award LRSP grants since both programs fund the same types of parks and recreation acquisition and development projects. From 1991 through 2006, the ASPB awarded 259 LRSP projects totaling nearly \$54 million, with a leveraged amount of \$132 million (Appendix B).

### **STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

#### **Background**

Arizona is mandated by Section 6(d) of the LWCF Act of 1965 to create the SCORP planning document every five years. Once approved by the National Park Service, the updated SCORP maintains Arizona's eligibility to participate in the LWCF stateside program. Each State's SCORP guides how annual stateside LWCF apportionments are granted to eligible recipients for outdoor recreation acquisition and development projects. The SCORP must address statewide outdoor recreation issues in a comprehensive manner including recreation supply and demand, a sufficiently detailed strategy for obligation of LWCF monies (Open Project Selection Process), identify wetlands that need priority protection, and provide ample opportunity for public involvement.

While the SCORP is the most comprehensive compilation of information statewide on outdoor recreation in Arizona and will assist in the decision making needs of a variety of providers, it is not a site specific plan nor does it attempt to address or solve every issue facing Arizona's recreation delivery system. The SCORP identifies existing resources and systems, general outdoor recreation and related tourism participation patterns and trends, issues and problems, and provides recommendations for strategic solutions to those problems.



Local and regional planning, research and cooperation are strongly encouraged to complement the information contained in the SCORP in order to satisfy the outdoor recreation needs of Arizona.

#### Purpose of SCORP

Federal guidelines outline two general purposes of the SCORP:

1. Guide the use of LWCF funds for local government and state recreation agencies by identifying public and agency preferences and priorities for outdoor recreation activities and facilities.
2. Identify outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance and those issues that will be addressed through LWCF funding.

When a local community identifies a priority in common with Arizona's SCORP, there may be an opportunity to apply to the ASPB for a grant from the Federal LWCF or the Arizona Heritage Fund's LRSP programs. Both grant programs use the same rating criteria and are intensely competitive. Projects that directly address the SCORP's Open Project Selection Process priorities are more likely to receive funding.

#### Arizona's 2008 SCORP Goals

- Establish outdoor recreation priorities for Arizona that will assist outdoor recreation managers at the local and state level, the Legislature, and the Executive Branch, as they make decisions about outdoor recreation and related natural resource issues.
- Set out guidelines to allocate Federal LWCF investments, LRSP Heritage funds and other recreation grant funds consistent with the state's outdoor recreation priorities identified in this plan. These criteria guidelines are used to evaluate project proposals and to make investment recommendations to the ASPB for final decision. This process is known as the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP).
- Provide outdoor recreation managers with a framework and information to use for more specific recreation planning and budgeting.
- Encourage a better, highly integrated outdoor recreation system throughout Arizona that balances recreation and protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Strengthen the awareness of the connections between outdoor recreation and good health and a thriving economy.

The staff at Arizona State Parks (ASP) held initial discussions with key stakeholders representing local government, private sector, non-profit and federal agency interests leading to a consensus that the SCORP process presents an ideal opportunity to focus public attention on outdoor recreation's key role in Arizona's economy and quality of life.

These stakeholders preferred an approach that did not just meet LWCF requirements, but would also explore strategies that respond to the challenges of meeting the outdoor recreation needs of a rapidly growing population while meeting the responsibility to conserve the special outdoor resources for which Arizona is renowned.

## **ARIZONA STATE PARKS' ADMINISTERED GRANT PROGRAMS**

The ASPB administers several state and federal grant programs that provide funds to eligible entities for outdoor recreation, nonmotorized trails, off-highway vehicle recreation, boating lake improvements, open space, and historic preservation projects.

Eight of the grant programs are specifically for outdoor recreation purposes: the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for park development and land acquisition, the Local, Regional and State Parks Heritage Fund (LRSP) for park development and land acquisition, the Trails Heritage Fund for nonmotorized trail development, the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP Nonmotorized) for trail maintenance projects, the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP Motorized) for motorized trail development, the State Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund (OHV) for motorized trail development and information, the State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) for boating lake development, and the Arizona Trail Fund, which was established in 2006 providing funds for the completion of the long-distance, non-motorized Arizona Trail.

ASPB also administers a Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund providing boating law enforcement moneys to county sheriffs, the Arizona Land Conservation Fund providing matching grants for acquisition of select State Trust lands for conservation and open space purposes (this program has been on hold due to legal considerations and questions regarding State Trust lands, the Arizona Preserve Initiative, and the Land Conservation Fund), and the Arizona Historic Preservation Heritage Fund and Federal Historic Preservation Fund providing grants to local and state owners of historic properties for stabilization and restoration projects.

ASPB awards grants and partnership moneys from these funds to agencies and organizations to accomplish mutual goals regarding the development, restoration, protection and enhancement of Arizona's natural, cultural and recreational resources.

NOTE: Eligible applicants vary by program, not all entities are eligible to apply for funds from all programs. Some programs have requirements of matching funds and maximum caps on the amount of funds available to an entity in any one funding cycle.

### **Awarded Grants and Funded Partnerships from FY 2002 through FY 2006**

The 2003 update of the SCORP tracked grant expenditures from fiscal years 1994 through 2001. This 2008 SCORP tracks the last five years of grant expenditures from fiscal years 2002 through 2006. **In the last five years, from fiscal years 2002 through 2006, the ASPB awarded a total of \$71.8 million in grants and partnership projects (Tables 2, 3 and 4).**

### Land and Water Conservation Fund

The LWCF has provided approximately \$8.46 million in grants to fund twenty-eight park and recreation projects in Arizona from FYs 2002-2006. Included in this amount is the 30% ASPB receives non-competitively from LWCF for outdoor recreation projects located within State Parks' managed lands.

### Arizona Heritage Fund

The Arizona Heritage Fund comes from a percentage of the state lottery revenues and provides up to \$20 million annually (when fully funded) to Arizona State Parks (\$10 million) and Arizona Game and Fish Department (\$10 million) to fund numerous parks, recreation, natural areas, environmental education and wildlife projects and programs.

Regarding the State Parks grant portion of the Heritage Fund, 35% of Arizona State Parks' \$10 million allocation goes to local, regional and state park grants, 17% to historic preservation grants, and 5% to nonmotorized trail grants. The Heritage Fund was not fully funded in FY 2002 and FY 2003.

The ASPB awarded \$26.9 million of the Arizona Heritage Fund to one hundred and ninety-eight competitive grant projects from FY 2002 through FY 2006, including \$17.3 million to fifty-six local park projects (LRSP), \$3.2 million to forty-four trail projects and \$6.3 million to ninety-eight historic preservation projects.

An additional \$119,500 in Heritage Funds were expended on trail projects and \$720,900 were expended on historic preservation projects located within Arizona State Parks and \$477,963 was expended on historic preservation projects administered by the State Historic Preservation Office.



*Let's play ball! Snow-covered baseball fields and bleachers await warmer weather and excited fans.*

The remainder of the Arizona State Parks' Heritage Fund allocation are not grant programs; these Heritage funds (Acquisition and Development, Natural Areas, and Environmental Education) are used for projects and programs within ASPB-administered parks and natural areas. The Arizona Game and Fish Department has similar Heritage Fund programs for wildlife-related projects.

The State Historic Preservation Office also awards monies from the federal Historic Preservation Fund to private landowners and Certified Local Governments to plan for and protect local cultural resources (Table 4).

### Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund

The Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund receives 0.55% of each year's state motor vehicle fuel taxes and provides monies for off-highway vehicle recreation management. The OHV Recreation Fund currently accrues approximately \$2.8 million annually in gasoline taxes from the Highway User Revenue Fund; Arizona State Parks receives 70% and Arizona Game and Fish Department receives 30%.

The Arizona Legislature “swept” the Fund in FY 2003 and FY 2004 to non-recreational purposes, removing approximately \$6 million in revenue during this period; including all obligated OHV partnership and grant dollars from FY 2002. Through FY 2004, ASPB was required to return all obligated (but not yet invoiced) funds for competitive grants and interagency partnership agreements to the Legislature for reallocation to other purposes, essentially terminating the state’s efforts to manage and provide for off-highway vehicle recreation.

In addition, starting in FY 2005 the State Legislature has appropriated \$692,100 annually from the OHV Recreation Fund to augment General Fund deficits in ASPB’s park operating expenses. As a result of these fund sweeps, the ASPB was only able to award \$835,655 in competitive OHV grants to seven projects using FY 2005 available OHV revenues.

Starting with \$860,000 in available project revenues accrued in FY 2006 to the OHV Recreation Fund, ASPB entered into partnerships in FY 2007 with the Arizona State Land Department, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office to implement several pilot OHV programs. One program assists the BLM and USFS evaluate and designate OHV routes on federal lands as a result of new national transportation directives.

A second program, the OHV Ambassador Program, is a collaborative effort between multiple agencies and OHV volunteers to increase on-the-ground OHV management presence and law enforcement patrols with an emphasis on user contact and education, as well as fund dozens of needed OHV projects (e.g., maps, signs, fencing, trail maintenance, mitigation) in high use OHV recreation areas. A third pilot program focuses on several education venues including educating school age children in OHV environmental ethics, supporting a public lands information center, and enlisting off-highway vehicle retail dealers directly in the education process with new vehicle owners on where to ride and how to ride responsibly.

#### Recreational Trails Program

The Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is part of the Federal Highway Administration’s Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21 covers FFYs 1998-2004) and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU covers FFYs 2005-2009). The RTP is a Federal-aid assistance program to help the States provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail use.

Arizona splits RTP trail project funds evenly (50:50) between motorized and nonmotorized trail projects. Motorized trail moneys fund competitive grants to eligible entities for a wide range of off-highway vehicle recreation projects. Nonmotorized trail moneys specifically fund trail maintenance partnerships throughout the state. In FYs 2002-2006, the RTP has provided \$4.9 million to forty agency projects to improve the motorized (\$3.4 million to thirteen projects) and nonmotorized (\$1.5 million to twenty-seven projects) trail opportunities in the state.

#### State Lake Improvement Fund

The State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) consists of a portion of the motor vehicle fuel taxes and a portion of the watercraft license tax. The exact percentage is based on the findings from

a survey of registered boat owners conducted every three years. SLIF is used to fund boating lake improvements, purchase watercraft for managing agencies, and occasionally construct new lakes. Since 2006, SLIF revenues can only be used on waterways where gas-powered boats are permitted. In 2002, the State Legislature swept \$6 million from the fund to address General Fund revenue shortfalls; in 2003 \$10 million and in 2004 \$6.8 million was swept from the fund by the State Legislature. Due to these fund sweeps, SLIF has provided only \$7.4 million in competitive grants to thirty-one projects on Arizona's lakes and waterways from FYs 2002-2006, and an additional \$600,000 to Arizona State Parks' boating improvement projects.

#### Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund

The Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF) provides grants to county governments for boating safety personnel, boating law enforcement equipment and other related activities. Revenue is derived from 46.75% (85% of 55%) of the watercraft license tax collected by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. LEBSF has provided \$6.6 million to eight counties for boating law enforcement and safety assistance.

#### Land Conservation Fund

The Growing Smarter Land Acquisition Program receives \$18 million from the \$20 million appropriated by the State Legislature annually to the Land Conservation Fund for matching grants to purchase select State Trust lands for open space and conservation purposes. Applicants must first work with the State Land Department to get the land classified as conservation lands, however, in 2004 the State Land Department stopped processing conservation reclassification requests putting the grant program on hold pending a legal review of the statute authorizing the program. This program provided \$13.4 million to three open space land acquisition projects in FYs 2002-2004. Arizona State Parks did not receive any grant applications for FYs 2005 through 2007. ASP anticipates receiving grant applications in FY 2008.

#### Arizona Trail Fund

The newest state grant program, the Arizona Trail Fund, was established in 2006 to fund development of the long-distance Arizona Trail. The State Legislature appropriated \$250,000 to the fund in FY 2007 to be administered by Arizona State Parks. Arizona State Parks is working closely with the not-for-profit Arizona Trail Association and governmental agencies that manage segments of the Arizona Trail to fund needed projects. Regarding future funding assistance towards completing the Arizona Trail, the State Legislature approved appropriations of \$125,000 for FY 2008 and \$125,000 for FY 2009.

*Arizona still has wide open spaces—  
Riding the trail with good friends.  
[Courtesy of AOT]*





**Table 2. Arizona State Parks Awarded Competitive Grants from FY 2002-FY 2006**

Grant Program	Number of Grants Awarded	Grant Dollars Awarded
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	22	\$5,908,324
Arizona Heritage Fund (state AHF—3 grant components)		
Parks (LRSP)	56	\$17,372,929
Trails (nonmotorized)	44	\$3,242,998
Historic Preservation	98	\$6,330,940
Recreational Trails Program-RTP Motorized	13	\$3,437,669
State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF)	31	\$7,465,695
Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF)	40	\$6,656,898
Growing Smarter/Land Conservation Fund	3	\$13,409,370
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund (OHV)	7	\$835,655
<b>Totals</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>\$64,660,478</b>

Individual project lists for each competitive grant program are listed by grant recipient on the Arizona State Parks webpage ([www.azstateparks.com](http://www.azstateparks.com)).

The Arizona State Parks Board receives a percentage of four grant funds for projects located on State Parks' managed lands. The following percentages (Table 3) are allocated to State Parks from each fund for projects; this percentage does not include program administration dollars. Arizona State Parks does not receive any project money from the Local, Regional and State Parks Heritage Fund.

**Table 3. Percent of Four Grant Funds used for Arizona State Parks' Projects from FY 2002-FY 2006**

Grant Program	% of Fund for ASP Projects	Dollars Awarded
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	30%	\$2,550,794
AZ Heritage Trails Fund (nonmotorized)	5% (\$25,000/yr)	\$119,500
AZ Heritage Historic Preservation Fund	8.8235% (\$150,000/yr)	\$1,154,021
State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF)	30%	\$600,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$4,424,315</b>

Arizona State Parks also partners with other governments and organizations to accomplish various program goals using portions of funds through cooperative agreements. Table 4 details those funds and amounts expended in the past five years.

**Table 4. Arizona State Parks Funded Partnerships from FY 2002-FY 2006**

Program	% or # of Projects	Project Dollars Allocated
Federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)	78	\$339,856
AZ Heritage Historic Preservation (SHPO)	5.8823% (\$100,000/yr)	\$477,963
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund (FY 2006 revenues)	50+	\$860,000
Recreational Trails Program - RTP Nonmotorized	27	\$1,519,592
Arizona Trail Fund (FY 2007)	8+	\$250,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$3,107,555</b>

The following three tables summarize grant information from FY 2000 through FY 2005 for some of the outdoor recreation grant programs administered by ASPB. Table 5 compares the number of projects requesting funding versus the actual number that were awarded grants (**supply versus demand**).

**Table 5. Seven Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs from FY 2000 through FY 2005**

Totals by Grant Program	# of Projects Requested	# of Projects Funded	Dollars Requested	Dollars Awarded*
LRSP/LWCF	191	108	\$58.4 million	\$30.1 million
Trails Heritage	76	56	\$5.0 million	\$3.6 million
RTP Nonmotorized	46	44	\$2.0 million	\$2.0 million
RTP Motorized/OHV	26	17	\$7.2 million	\$4.5 million
SLIF	72	50	\$36.6 million	\$18.5 million
<b>totals</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>\$109.2 million</b>	<b>\$58.7 million</b>

Table 6 compares **urban versus rural** towns and counties requesting and receiving LRSP and LWCF funds.

**Table 6. Breakdown of LWCF and LRSP Totals by Municipalities (city and county projects)**

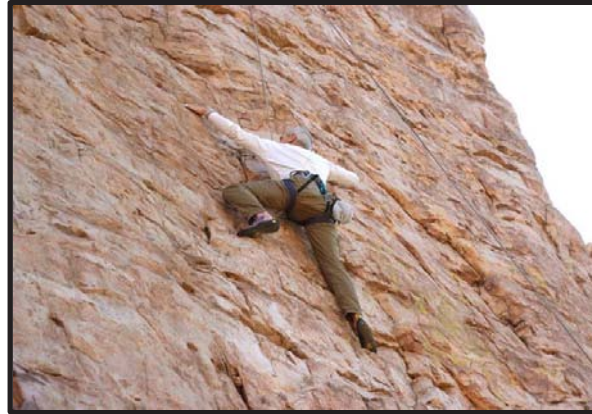
LRSP/LWCF For Municipal Totals only (remainder were state or tribal projects)	% of Projects Requested but Unfunded	% of Projects Requested and Funded	Dollars Requested	Dollars Awarded
% Municipal Total (city/county only)	95%	92%	93%	89%
Urban % (towns>100,000=62% of AZ pop.)	15.2%	24.2%	26.8%	32.9%
Rural % (towns<100,000=38% of AZ pop.)	84.8%	75.8%	73.2%	67.1%
Maricopa/Pima Counties (76% of pop.)	37.9%	41.4%	53.9%	58.8%
Other 13 Counties (24% of pop.)	62.1%	58.6%	46.1%	41.2%

Table 7 compares the percentage of grant dollars awarded **by applicant type**: municipalities, state, Tribal, federal and nonprofit (most programs do not allow nonprofits as eligible entities).

**Table 7. Percent of Grant Dollars Awarded by Applicant Type**

% of Grant Dollars *	Municipalities	State	Tribal	Federal	NonProfit
LRSP/LWCF	89%	5%	0.8%	-	-
Trails Heritage	66%	4.2%	2.2%	31.6%	-
RTP Nonmotorized	29%	3.2%	1.1%	66.3%	-
RTP Motorized/OHV	18%	2%	0%	68.8%	11.4%
SLIF	97%	2.9%	0%	-	-
<b>% of Total Grant Awards</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>





## Chapter 2

# PLANNING PROCESS

Public participation in the development of a state's SCORP is an integral part of the planning process. The methodology used to develop Arizona's 2008 SCORP included an advisory committee, telephone and web-based surveys, public meetings, trend research, and public review and comment on the draft plan.

### **Arizona 2008 SCORP Work Group**

Before setting the planning agenda for the update to Arizona's SCORP, Arizona State Parks requested assistance from its partners to determine the plan's components, what research and data needed to be gathered, how to involve the public and others, and to help guide the overall plan development. This assistance from recreation partners took the form of a steering committee, or Work Group. The SCORP was prepared by Arizona State Parks' staff under the guidance of this Work Group of outdoor recreation and natural resource leaders from seventeen local, state and federal agencies and private organizations (Table 8).

Participants were selected to represent a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation and natural resource perspectives. Although they might have different opinions on specific issues, they share a broad view of outdoor recreation issues at a strategic level. Their thoughtful approach to this policy plan is its greatest strength.

The Work Group met many times between March 2006 and March 2007 to identify, discuss and prioritize statewide outdoor recreation issues. They reviewed and recommended questions for the recreation provider and general public surveys. The group drafted the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP or grant rating criteria) for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Local, Regional, and State Park (LRSP) grant programs. They also helped guide the preparation of the plan and reviewed the draft SCORP.

**Table 8. 2008 SCORP Work Group**

<b>2008 SCORP Work Group</b>	
Elizabeth Stewart	Member, Arizona State Parks Board
Jeff Bell	Parks and Recreation Director, City of Apache Junction (AORCC)
Rafael Payan	Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Director, Pima County (AORCC)
Bart Wagner	Parks Division Manager, Lake Havasu City
Judy Weiss	Parks and Recreation Director, City of Scottsdale
Rick Pinckard	Finance Director, Town of Eagar
Tom Guadagnoli	Parks and Recreation Director, City of Benson
Cynthia Lovely	Parks and Recreation Acquisitions Manager, Coconino County
John Willoughby	Parks and Recreation Director, Town of Chino Valley
Lisa Padilla	Recreation Operations Manager, Parks & Recreation, Town of Queen Creek
Thom Hulen	Conservation Director, Desert Foothills Land Trust
Chuck Hudson	Environmental Resources Manager, AZ State Land Department
Sal Palazzolo	Landowner Relations Program Manager, AZ Game & Fish Dept.
AnnDee Johnson/ Mike Leyva	Research & Strategic Planning Director , AZ Office of Tourism/ Tourism Education and Development Director, AZ Office of Tourism
Dave Killebrew	Recreation Staff Officer, Tonto National Forest
Don Applegate	AZ Recreation Program Lead, Bureau of Land Management State Office
Larry Laing	Natural Resources Manager, National Park Service

**2008 SCORP Work Group Meeting Schedule**

The Work Group met ten times in 2006 and 2007. All meetings were held at the Arizona State Parks' Phoenix Office and were open to the public.

March 9, 2006  
 April 20, 2006  
 June 17, 2006  
 September 27, 2006  
 October 18, 2006  
 November 8, 2006  
 December 6, 2006  
 January 17, 2007  
 March 21, 2007  
 July 17, 2007

**Recreation Provider and Public Surveys**

Arizona State Parks partnered with Arizona State University, School of Community Resources and Development, to develop and conduct two surveys to gather current information on outdoor recreation trends and issues (Nyaupane, Yoshioka, Waskey, 2006).

The first survey was a web-based survey available to over 230 of Arizona's outdoor recreation providers, including local, state, tribal and federal agencies and local land trusts. It was conducted from May through July 2006. An initial letter of invitation to participate in the survey was sent to all providers, followed by an email with instructions on how to access the online survey. In addition, several follow-up email reminders were sent to encourage participation. ASU received 106 completed surveys for a response rate of 49%. This survey was conducted to determine, from the resource managers' perspective, the current outdoor recreation opportunities, issues, concerns and priorities.

The second survey was a telephone survey of randomly selected Arizona households (1,238 completed interviews) with an emphasis on regional outdoor recreation priorities. It was conducted in October 2006 using a random digit-dialed phone methodology.

Many of the same questions from the online provider survey were asked of the general public respondents as well as questions pertaining to the importance of different types of parks and activities, household proximity to parks, and satisfaction levels. The answers to these questions assisted staff in developing grant rating criteria and determining how best to allocate the grant funds. See Chapter 6 for survey results.

In addition, ASU assisted the State Historic Preservation Office conduct a statewide survey in the summer of 2006 on historic preservation issues for the 2007 update to the Arizona Historic Preservation Plan.

The final SCORP incorporates results of the completed public survey and provider survey. The findings include a minimum number of completed surveys from Arizona's six Council of Government regions to secure a sample adequate to attain statistically reliable data for generalization purposes on a regional basis. This method differs from other statewide surveys that are based solely on a weighted population sampling.

**Draft and Final Plans**

Before beginning the plan, staff presented the planning process to the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) and the Arizona State Parks Board (ASPB) at public meetings in early 2006. At the request of the Parks Board and AORCC, staff convened a SCORP steering committee—the SCORP Work Group.

The Work Group met regularly for a full year in public meetings to discuss and guide the plan. Regular updates on the plan's progress were provided to ASPB and AORCC throughout the process at their regularly scheduled public meetings.

After analyzing the survey results, evaluating recreation demand and supply, receiving partner comments and researching current trends, staff prepared the draft plan. An initial version of the draft plan was submitted to the Work Group in March 2007 for review and comments. A “final” draft plan was submitted to AORCC in Spring 2007.

The draft plan was available for public comment from mid-April through mid-July 2007. The draft plan was available to be downloaded and reviewed on the State Parks’ webpage or those interested could request a hard copy. Written comments could be submitted by email or regular mail, and oral comments could be given at any of Arizona State Parks’ public meetings.

Staff prepared the final plan after evaluating all comments received during the public comment period. Staff submitted the final plan to AORCC in August for its adoption and recommendation to the ASPB. Upon AORCC’s recommendation, staff submitted the final plan to the ASPB in September for approval. After receiving the ASPB’s approval, staff submitted the 2008 SCORP to the Governor of Arizona for certification of adequate public involvement in the plan.

Once these steps were completed, the plan was reviewed and approved by the National Park Service, extending Arizona’s eligibility to participate in the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program for another five years.

The final 2008 SCORP is available on the Arizona State Parks website: [www.azstateparks.com](http://www.azstateparks.com).



*People pursue all types of outdoor recreation because it is fun—  
some activities are relaxing, some are stimulating—  
all are enjoyable! [Grand Canyon; Courtesy of AOT]*